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LOSING MUNCHAK WOULD BE TOUGH
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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

Samantha Ritter of Robinson gives Matthew Sun of Sterling, Va., his first glimpse of Pittsburgh's Point, which was snow-covered and frozen on Tuesday. They are looking at a plaque that notes the confluence of three rivers at the Point.

FROSTY FORECAST

High temperatures in single digits predicted for later this week

By Elizabeth Behrman
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Although it is supposed to "warm up" slightly to an expected 24 degrees Wednesday, Allegheny County residents should be prepared and take precautions for the bitter cold expected to return and last through Saturday.

High temperatures Thursday and Friday will be in the single digits, with subzero windchill, officials said, and that kind of cold can snarl traffic, freeze pipes and cause frostbite within 30 minutes. The lows are expected to be 7 on Wednesday, zero on Thursday, minus 3 on Friday and minus 5 Saturday.

Classes in scores of school districts in the region were canceled or delayed Tuesday because of the extreme cold, with more of the same expected Wednesday to prevent students from having to wait for their buses in dangerously low temperatures.

Pittsburgh Public Schools announced Tuesday that buildings would be operating on a two-hour delay Wednesday.

Schools spokeswoman Ebony Pugh said officials consult with the district's heads of operations and transportation before ultimately deciding whether to delay or close school for the day. The decision is based on such factors as predicted temperatures with windchill and how long it could take to warm up

SEE **FROSTY**, PAGE A-2

Inside
Even as temperatures plummet, thousands of households around Pittsburgh lack heating service, **Story on A-2**

Shuster to retire from Congress

9th District rep steps down after 17 years

By Chris Potter
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Republican Congressman Bill Shuster, chairman of the House Transportation Committee and a longtime advocate for infrastructure in southwestern Pennsylvania, will not seek re-election in November.

"It has been one of my life's greatest honors to serve and represent the citizens of the 9th District for 17 years," said Mr. Shuster, of Everett, Bedford County, in a Tuesday statement. "I am proud of the legislation the committee has passed into law, most with bipartisan votes. This is my final year as chairman, and we have much still to do."

But Mr. Shuster added that he had decided not to seek a 10th term.

"I thought it wiser to spend my last year as chairman focusing 100 percent on working with President Trump and my Republican and Democratic colleagues in both chambers to pass a much needed infrastructure bill to rebuild America."

The 56-year-old Mr. Shuster told the Washington Examiner, which broke the news of his retirement, that the president "seems to be ready to go, as we are" on the long-awaited bill. "I think we're going to have a good working relationship."

But Mr. Shuster himself may have faced a bumpy political road ahead. "His polling is not very good," said state Sen. John Eichelberger, a Blair County Republican who's been weighing a run for the seat. Mr. Eichelberger noted that Mr. Shuster barely fended off a 2016 challenge from Tea Party-style

SEE **SHUSTER**, PAGE A-4

Sen. Hatch retiring at end of term

Decision could open way for Mitt Romney

By Sean Sullivan and Michael Scherer
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, will retire from the Senate at the end of this term, he announced Tuesday, a decision that will bring his four-decade congressional career to an end and inject new intrigue into the midterm elections with an open race that could feature Mitt Romney.

In a video announcement he posted online, Mr. Hatch reflected on his time as an amateur boxer in his youth in Pittsburgh as he explained his desire to step down early next year.

"Every good fighter knows when to hang up the gloves. And for me, that time is soon approaching," said Mr. Hatch, 83. "That's why after much prayer and discussion with family and friends, I've decided to retire at the end of this term."

Mr. Hatch's decision triggers an open contest in a state that leans heavily to the right. Republicans with a close eye on the race said they expect Mr. Romney to run.

"I think the field is precleared. I think he still wants to serve. I think we could use someone with his real world business experience in the Senate," Dan Eberhart, a wealthy

SEE **HATCH**, PAGE A-4

Protest movement continues

U.S. pushes for more sanctions on Iran

By Carol Morello and Anne Gearan
The Washington Post

The Trump administration accused the Iranian government Tuesday of blocking communications used by anti-government protesters and began laying the groundwork for new international sanctions targeting alleged human rights abuses.

As the protests continued for the sixth day, the Trump administration attempted to grasp whether discontent would spiral into a full-fledged uprising or be smothered in government suppression. The demonstrations began over economic grievances but quickly turned political as

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE A-4

Leon Neal/Getty Images

Anti-regime protestors demonstrate outside the Iranian Embassy on Tuesday in London. Protests in Iran have seen at least 12 people die during violent clashes over recent days.

Trump brags his 'nuclear button' larger than Kim Jong Un's

By Matthew Pennington
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump sounded open Tuesday to the possibility of an inter-Korean dialogue after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a rare overture toward South Korea in a New Year's address. But Mr. Trump's ambassador to the United Nations insisted talks would not be meaningful unless the North was getting rid of its nuclear weapons, and Mr. Trump later boasted that his "nuclear button" is bigger and more powerful than Mr. Kim's.

In a morning tweet, Mr. Trump said the U.S.-led campaign of sanctions and other pressure were beginning to have a "big impact" on North Korea. He referred to the recent, dramatic escape of at least two North Korean soldiers across the heavily militarized border into South Korea. He also alluded to Mr. Kim's comments Monday that he was willing to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics, which will be hosted by South Korea next month.

"Soldiers are dangerously fleeing to South Korea. Rocket man now wants to talk to South Korea for first time. Perhaps that is good news, perhaps not — we will see!" Mr. Trump said, using his derisive moniker for the young North Korean leader.

In response to Mr. Kim's overture, South Korea on Tuesday offered high-level talks on Jan. 9 at the shared border village of

SEE **KOREA**, PAGE A-4

Virginia man makes first courtroom appearance

Detention hearing set for terrorism suspect

By Tracie Mauriello
Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A Virginia man accused of planning a terror attack had his first appearance in federal court Tuesday on an obstruction of justice charge after the FBI said he attempted to destroy evidence as agents raided his Virginia home Friday.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Theresa C. Buchanan set a detention hearing for Sean Duncan at 2 p.m. Jan. 8, when prosecutors are expected to present preliminary evidence to Judge John F. Anderson in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Until then, Mr. Duncan is being held without bond and could face up to 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

Mr. Duncan, who briefly lived in Aspinwall, spoke very little during the hearing, which lasted less than five minutes. He requested to be represented by a public defender. As U.S. marshals escorted him out, he gazed over the courtroom but did not appear to recognize any supporters.

Although neighbors said he often wore Islamic religious garb, Mr. Duncan appeared in court wearing a T-shirt that said "Herndon Police Department Supporter" on the back

SEE **COURT**, PAGE A-4

Weather
Not as cold.
Daytime high 25, tonight's low 7.
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